

# Responding to Climate Change in your Community



## Our Environmental Commitment

Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) is committed to building resiliency for healthy watersheds and people. With access to real time and historical mapping information, data collected through our integrated watershed monitoring program as well as access to data from other agencies, we are well positioned to understand and respond to changes in our local watersheds.

## What We Are Seeing

The impacts of climate change are varied and diverse, threatening our water quality and supply, native species and wildlife habitats. In CLOCA's watershed, our climate is getting wetter, warmer and wilder. We are experiencing longer periods of extremely hot weather and more days between rainfall. Storms are more severe and winds are gustier. These factors are impacting our forests, wetlands, rivers, wildlife, birds and fish. Invasive species continue to further degrade habitats with limited resources available to keep them in check.



## How We Are Responding

In an effort to respond to these threats, we continue to work in a variety of ways to adapt to the impacts of climate change within our watershed. Many the programs we deliver assist in climate change adaptation. Adaptation is about building resilience so we are better prepared for climate change impacts like extreme weather, drought and flooding.

- Implementing ecosystem enhancements for improving land and water resources on public and private lands identified prioritized our natural heritage system model.
- Improving and enhancing our flood hazard mapping, flood prediction, management and forecasting program with new technologies, providing more accuracy and precision to our services.
- Reporting and tracking low water and flood conditions and contributing our information into a Provincial database to understand the impacts of climate change.
- Developing stormwater and hydrogeological guidelines to better inform new development.

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- Delivering programs that promote watershed resiliency, including the protection and enhancement of natural areas such as wetlands and forests.
- Reviewing land use plans and development proposals to ensure development is directed away from areas susceptible to flooding and erosion, reducing risk to public health, safety and property damage.
- Promoting the use of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development (LID) to reduce runoff, prevent flooding and protect water quality. Green Infrastructure includes natural spaces and green technologies that maximizes infiltration, reduces runoff and protects water. They include rain gardens, bio-swales, green roofs, forests, parks, naturalized riparian areas along our creeks, engineered wetlands and stormwater ponds, which help adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- We also play a key role in the delivery of the Durham Region Climate Change Community Adaptation Plan and are currently leading the update of the Region's Climate Model.
- Delivering community engagement and environmental education programs bring awareness to the impacts of climate change and what actions people can take to assist in mitigation and adaptation.
- A Provincial watershed health report card is published every five years to assess forest cover, water quality and wetland habitat. Find it online at [www.cloca.com/watershed-report-cards](http://www.cloca.com/watershed-report-cards).



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## What You Can Do

To find out how you can better adapt and mitigate climate change, check out our Homeowner Stewardship Guide to help do your part at [www.cloca.com/stewardship](http://www.cloca.com/stewardship).